NOTE ON THE LARVA OF EUPITHECIA RUSSELIATA SWETT (LEPIDOPTERA GEOMETRIDAE)

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In the 1949 revision of the genus *Eupithecia* the author records the larval food plants as various conifers, based presumably on reports from the Canadian Forest Insect Survey. In 1952 Rindge (Amer. Mus. Novitates No. 1569) figures the terminal pupal segments, mentioning that the larva was found on *Kalmia*. Since then the larvae have been found quite frequently in the Halifax region on both *Kalmia* and *Rhodora* and it seems certain that these are the normal food plants: it is hardly probable that the larvae occur on conifers and such records must be considered as erroneous.

As the larvae differ very essentially from the normal form as typified in *E. satyrata* a detailed description is herewith appended, based on a larva feeding on Rhodora.

Body thin and elongate, light green dorsally, shagreened as usual. Head rather upright, very pale greenish. On the body segments there is no trace of the usual dorsal diamond patches. There are merely pale yellowish white, subdorsal lines and an indistinct subspiracular one along the fairly evident flange. On each of the two posterior segments a reddish median spot frequently occurs, situated near the posterior margin. The segmental incisions are pale yellow and the mid-abdominal segments are divided into approximately five subsegments of which the middle one is twice the width of the others. Spiracles small, whitish. Setae pale, moderately long, particularly on the thoracic segments. Length, when full grown 17–19 mm. Before pupation the larva turns pinkish and there are faint traces of incipient diamond patches on the posterior segments dorsally. The larva rests either extended on the edge of a leaf or more frequently along the midrib on the underside.

Several of the adults which emerged from the hibernating pupae were almost immaculate deep brown in the coloration of the primaries, corresponding to the form *russeliata brauneata* Swett which was treated doubtfully as a subspecies in the 1949 revision. As compared with Rindge's drawing of the terminal pupal segment (Fig. 7A) the pupae and pupal shells examined show on the whole a considerably broader and more rounded caudal edge than in this figure. It is probable that a good deal of variation exists in individual pupae, depending possibly to a certain extent on the sex of the insect.